

REGINA ROMERO

Tucson City Council - Ward I

Westside : Southside : Downtown

www.tucsonaz.gov/ward1

520.791.4040 : ward1@tucsonaz.gov



A MESSAGE FROM COUNCILOR ROMERO

JULY 2010

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

It was great to see many of you at the 13th Annual Dia De San Juan, which is held every year to honor cultural traditions and welcome the "season of el chubasco-the monsoon rains." Heritage and nature tourism bring 1.5 million visitors to Arizona annually, contributing millions to our local economy. Heritage events will kick off Tucson's birthday month in August; see details inside and invite your out-of-state friends and family. Business owners all agree with local icon Cele Peterson's philosophy – there's no place I'd rather be than in Tucson in August!

Increasingly, more people are recognizing our Great City as THE place to be for nature and culture, livability, sustainability, and innovation. Tucson Regional Economic Opportunities has highlighted top Tucson kudos on its website at <http://treoaz.org/News-Center.aspx>.

In May of 2010, Tucson ranked 19th on Forbes' list of America's Most Innovative Cities. In April of 2010, Tucson was rated No. 5 for Bicycle Friendly Cities, and as a leading Solar City. U of A is No. 1 in science funding. We're leaders in Green building; we're a renowned bioscience global hub. We're strategically located for international transportation and distribution services across the country and to Mexico's deep water ports. We're the No. 1 city to retire. We're in the Top 10 cities for arts. The list goes on...

That's why Mayor and Council voted to support a citizen committee's recommendation to ask voters if they want to invest in our City's financial recovery. Our economy prior to my election in 2007 was fueled by growth. New homes and construction poured millions into city coffers. Today, we cut the budget by \$60 million while increasing fees for service and we still have a structural deficit of \$40 million. On July 7 I voted with four of my colleagues to allow Tucson voters to choose what kind of future we want for our city—more cuts or more investment. Prop 400 on the November ballot is a temporary, 5-year, ½ cent sales tax to fund core services; public safety, transportation and parks and recreation. This temporary relief will allow us to focus on job creation and economic development. Join us for a Town Hall on Prop 400 Wednesday, August 11 at 6 p.m. at El Pueblo Center, 101 W. Irvington.

Please enjoy this newsletter and the monsoon rains and think positively about Tucson's future. I am proud to serve you and this Great City. Please call any time at 791-4040 or email ward1@tucsonaz.gov.

In community,

Regina Romero

P.S. On July 7 I joined with City Councilors Karin Uhlich and Richard Fimbres to vote against placing a package of City Charter changes on the ballot. I don't think it's the right time to ask for a pay raise when so many people are out of work. We attempted to separate the package to vote on the Charter changes individually, but we couldn't get a 4th vote to make that happen. Now its up to voters to decide on Prop 401 on the November ballot.



Jesse Soto spent 13 years organizing El Dia de San Juan. Muchisimas Gracias por todo!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Mission Road Cleanup
July 31 6 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.

Happy Birthday Tucson
Mission Gardens Event
Sunday, August 1 8:30 a.m.

Transportation Updates

Back to Basics Projects

Ward 1 Honors local business
icon Cele Peterson

OUR COMMUNITY

WARD I HONORS PASSING OF LOCAL BUSINESS ICON CELE PETERSON

Cele Peterson— longtime small business owner, style maven, founder of Tucson's birthday month and advocate for arts, history, culture and more, passed away May 6 at age 101. Cele was a role model for Councilor Romero and she promised to keep her vision alive.

"Cele Peterson had a strong, successful business sense. Her vision for Tucson's birthday was to make the month of August a special time for locals and visitors. She knew that August celebrations would highlight Tucson's unique character and strengthen our local economy," said Councilor Romero.

Bloggers, photographers, writers, partiers, unite!

Do you love Tucson and want to share our uniqueness with others for August birthday celebrations? Birthday Ambassadors are needed to tell the stories of parties across the city. The orientation is **Saturday, July 24 from 10 a.m. to noon** at the Martha Cooper Branch Library, 1377 North Catalina Avenue. Historian Ken Scoville will give a 20-minute capsule history of Tucson, and we'll have donuts and birthday cake from the 75-year-old LeCave's Bakery. Reservations are required via e-mail to Tucsonsbirthday@gmail.com.

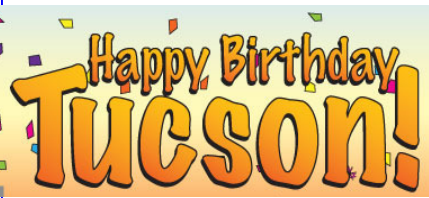
Help us clean up Tucson's birthplace July 31 - 6 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.

Help us kickoff Cele Peterson's legacy of Tucson's Birthday Month with a clean-up at the base of "A" Mountain along Mission Road. Exit I-10 at Congress and head West to Mission/Grande. Head south just past Mission Lane to park. Tucson Clean and Beautiful, Pima Association of Governments, and the Community Foundation of Southern Arizona are just a few of the groups that will participate. Call or email Diana to sign up—Diana.rhoades@tucsonaz.gov, 837-4263.



Supervisor Richard Elias with Cele Peterson and many friends

HELP US DEDICATE MISSION GARDENS—SATURDAY AUGUST 1, 8:30 TO 10:30 A.M.



WWW.TUCSONSBIRTHDAY.ORG

Start celebrating Tucson's birthday with breakfast at Mission Gardens! Join Friends of Tucson's Birthplace, City Councilor Regina Romero and Pima County Supervisor Richard Elias to celebrate this public-private partnership. The gates, built and donated by Lloyd Construction, mark the progress of the 4-acre Mission Garden, which will interpret the 4,000-year history of agriculture in the Santa Cruz River Valley. It will demonstrate the native desert plants traditionally used by the Tohono O'odham, and will celebrate the exchanges of native and introduced crop plants that were important aspects of the cultural encounters between the Tohono O'odham, Spaniards, Mexicans, and Anglo-Americans in this region in a historical timeline.

The Mission Garden is one piece of Tucson Origins Heritage Park. Other planned components to support our heritage tourism industry include reconstructions of the San Agustín Mission chapel, the Convento, and re-creations of the O'odham village of S-cuk Son and the settlements of the Hohokam and earlier farmers. This area represents more than 4,000 years of living - making Tucson potentially THE oldest continuously inhabited city in the United States.

Ward I Hosts Free Homebuying Seminars

The seminars focus on the newest government-funded down payment assistance programs such as Your Way Home Arizona, WISH Program, and Pima County Mortgage Revenue Bond Program. To RSVP contact Camilla Hasan at 906-6939 or Claudia Romero at 312-4483.

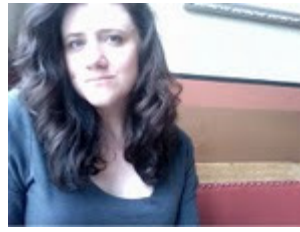
When: Wednesday, July 28, 2010, 6 p.m.
Wednesday, August 4, 2010, 6 p.m.
Wednesday, August 11, 2010, 6 p.m.
Wednesday, August 25, 2010, 6 p.m.
Where: Ward I Council Office, Conference Room,
940 W. Alameda St.

A Win for Taxpayers!

Working together, we were able to defeat attempts by the Legislature to eliminate the historic tax credit program. More than 2,000 households in Tucson are participating, saving 40 percent of your property taxes annually that can be reinvested in the home to maintain its federal historic status. Research shows historic designation increases property values and reduces crime. Homes as recent as 1960 can qualify. Download a form to apply at http://azstateparks.com/SHPO/downloads/SHPO_Tax_Residential_form.pdf

MEET WARD 1 ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE SHANNON CAIN

With funding from Poets and Writers, Inc, Shannon Cain will call attention to arts and civil dialogue in Tucson. At every Council meeting from now until she publishes her book, Cain will be reading three minutes from her novel about Tucson-www.tucsonthenovel.blogspot.com. Shannon is a fiction writer and a writing coach. She had a studio in the Historic Warehouse Arts District at the Steinfeld and has been awarded a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts, the O. Henry Prize and the Pushcart Prize. She has taught creative writing at the University of Arizona, Gotham Writers Workshop, UCLA Extension and Arizona State University. She is the fiction editor for Kore Press.



Contact Us!
(520) 791-4040; Ward1@Tucsonaz.gov
www.tucsonaz.gov

Alvira 'Vera' Gallego, Executive Assistant: (520)837-4267; Alvira.Gallego@Tucsonaz.gov
Amy Santos, Administrative Assistant: (520)837-4268; Amy.Santos@Tucsonaz.gov
Mac Hudson, Council Aide:(520)837-4262; Mac.Hudson@Tucsonaz.gov
Diana Rhoades, Council Aide: (520) 837-4263; diana.rhoades@tucsonaz.gov
Darlane Santa Cruz, Council Aide: (520) 837-4265; darlane.santacruz@tucsonaz.gov

MEET MEGAN AND KATY: UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA STAR INTERNS



Regina Romero is a proud alumnus of the University of Arizona and offers internships to U of A students for school credit, résumé-building and community service. This year, we were lucky to have two fantastic interns. Megan Cunningham is a junior, studying History and Political Science. After graduating, she hopes to get involved in education, teaching at the secondary level. She says the internship creates many opportunities for future government work and offers a hands-on way of learning about city government. She has been interested in politics for many years and loves being involved on a daily basis. Katy Nail is a sophomore at the U of A, studying Political Science and English. She plans on studying law. **If you are**

interested in an internship, please send your resume to Vera Gallego at Alvira.gallego@tucsonaz.gov. Please call 791-4040.

WARD ONE BACK TO BASICS PROJECTS

Before the budget crisis hit, Councilor Romero received federal Back to Basics funds for investments in the community. We wanted to share with you which projects were funded through an application process over the past two years using Community Development Block Grant Funds and the Highway User Revenue Funds.

"A" Mountain Neighborhood Tree planting/ San Juan Park : \$9,669

Airport Wash Improvements: \$42,000

1,000 Trees Please at El Presidio Neighborhood: \$1,000

Barrio Anita Historic Survey: \$6,000

Barrio Anita/Bike Church Trees: \$5,000

Barrio Hollywood Design: \$52,000

Brichta Neighborhood and Anklam Wash improvements: \$8,000

Campana De Plata Speed Table: \$5634.39

Casa Nueva Traffic Calming (Sunnyside Neighborhood): \$4,500

Dunbar Spring matching funds for Pima County Neighborhood Reinvestment Grant: \$30,000

Elvira Neighborhood Park: \$100,000

Emerge Domestic Violence Center: \$10,000

Golden Hills Traffic Circle: \$11,700

Grande-Cushing Roundabout: \$5,000

Ironwood Neighborhood: Traffic Calming \$6,000

Kroeger Lane Water Harvesting: \$20,000

La Pilita Museum Repairs: \$8416.49

Menlo Park School Park Design: \$5,500

Menlo Park Matching Funds for Pima County Neighborhood

Reinvestment Grant: \$20,000

Midvale Park Traffic Calming: \$10,275.17

Panorama Estates/Menlo Park: \$25,000

Sentinel Peak Park Design: \$77,500

Silverbell/Congress Landscaping: \$16,493

Silvercroft Neighborhood Rainwater Harvesting Pocket Park: \$5500

St. Johns Park Lighting: \$40,000

St. Mary's/Granada Rainwater Harvesting: \$5,500

Verdugo Park Design: \$3,000

Warehouse Arts District Water Harvesting and Tree Planting: \$10,000

Ward 1 Low Income Housing Rehabilitation: \$150,000

Ward 1 is very grateful to the Tohono O'odham Nation for a \$100,000 grant for Los Reales Park. Thank you!!!

IN THE COMMUNITY

The Ward 1 Office joined Tucson Clean and Beautiful (TCB) to honor the **CAC-TUS Club and Taxpals, Inc.**, for collecting 300 bags of trash on Silverbell Road over the past year, between Goret and Sweetwater. Thanks, **Theresa Russell** for organizing! Silverbell is one of 175 road sites that have been adopted. In the past year, Tucson-area volunteers provided 13,000 hours of work cleaning up neighborhood parks, washes and roads. To volunteer with the TCB Adopt-a-Street program, call 791-3109.

Ward 1 Promotes Green Spaces

Barrio Kroeger Lane received a \$20,000 grant from Ward 1 to partner with Southwest Conservation Corps to hire kids in grades 6 through 9 as part of a federal Learn to Serve grant this summer. They are creating streetside raingardens from the I-10 underpass to Verdugo Park, near the Santa Cruz River. Forty kids will work for two, four-week programs. For more information about Southwest Conservation Corps and potential youth jobs, please call Holly at holly@sccorps.org, 520.884.5550.

IN ACTION

FEDERAL AND REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION DOLLARS MOVE PROJECTS FORWARD WARD 1 PROJECTS BRING JOBS AND NEEDED INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

The federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) is pouring \$10.2 million into road projects and another \$63 million into the Modern Streetcar, providing needed jobs and improvements for Tucsonans. In addition, our Regional Transportation Authority 1/2 cent sales tax approved by voters in 2006 continues to fund important projects. It's just in time because city revenues (largely sales taxes and Highway User Revenue Funds from the State) have been cut by tens of millions of dollars over the last four years as council members have strived to balance the budget. We have federal and regional funds for specific projects, and some impact-fees for improvements, but we are still millions short for general maintenance, potholes, weeding in the medians, building bike trails, increasing transit and improving safety. With more deep cuts planned for all levels of city government, Councilor Romero voted to place a temporary, 1/2 cent sales tax on the November ballot to allow Tucsonans to choose whether they want to spend more on transportation and other needs. If approved, approximately \$10 million would be allocated to improve roads and transit and fill potholes. Please let Councilor Romero know your opinion about a temporary sales tax to fund our roads and other projects. Call 791-4040 or email ward1@tucsonaz.gov.

NEW ROAD PAVING

Anklam - Greasewood to Silverbell repaving; Alameda - Stone to Church repaving; **Congress - Grande to I-10 repaving and restriping for a bicycle lane;** Downtown Links - I-10 to Church Ave repaving, streetscape and art; **Drexel - Mission to Santa Cruz River repaving;** Oaktree - Drexel to Midvale Park repaving

NEW TRANSPORTATION CHOICES IN NEXT THREE YEARS

Modern Streetcar - Procurement for cars, rail, and maintenance facility construction; **Cushing Street Bridge** - Design is nearing completion and staff is pursuing Federal environmental clearance. Construction is expected to begin in 2010; The bridge will carry cars, bikes, pedestrians and the streetcar from the convention center to gems shows and planned developments across the Santa Cruz River.

TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENTS IN NEXT YEAR

Barrio Hollywood's Grande Avenue between St. Mary's Rd and Speedway. **Widen sidewalks, shade trees, landscaping, artwork, historic mural and pedestrian lighting;** Barrio Sin Nombre drainage, landscaping, lighting

INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS IN NEXT YEAR



The Hartford Insurance Co. joined City crews for a pothole patrol partnership to fix our streets. Voters can help repair potholes by passing a ballot initiative in November 2010. It will sunset in five years. It's a temporary fix for our streets, public safety and parks while we grow our economic base.

Plan coordinated by the Pima Association of Governments. Bicycle projects received more public comments than any other project! Visit www.tucsonbikesurvey.com to get involved with bicycle planning and visit [PAG](#) for regional transportation plans.



Transportation's Steve Ledoux, Paul Rosenboom and Angel Figueroa join community organizer Brad Lancaster at a Ward 1 improvement project at the Bike Church in Barrio Anita Downtown

Irvington/Calle Santa Cruz intersection improvements; Starr Pass/ Mission intersection plus landscaping and beautification

BUS PULLOUTS

Bus Pullouts- Silverbell Rd. / Grant Rd. Eastbound; Congress St. / El Rio Health Center Westbound; St. Mary's Rd. / Silverbell Rd. Eastbound; Valencia Rd. / San Fernando Eastbound; 12th Ave. / Valencia Northbound; 12th Ave. / Nebraska Northbound

GREENWAYS AND PROPOSED BICYCLE IMPROVEMENTS

Bicycle Boulevard along Liberty and San Fernando Avenues from 43rd Street to Los Reales Road. Ward 1 went on a tour of this newly proposed bicycle boulevard for the southside, similar to the 3rd Street/University Bikeway in midtown. We applied for a federal transportation enhancement grant and made sure plans were included in the 2040 Regional Transportation

MEET ME AT THE MERCADO!

Congratulations to the Gadsden Company for their success in getting Tucson's first-ever federal New Market Tax Credits for the completion of the Mercado San Agustin. Set to open this Fall, the Mercado will provide new services for Westside residents and new revenue for the City of Tucson. Tacos, a bakery, a coffee shop, wine bar and restaurants will be at the corner of W. Congress and Avenida Del Convento. Congrats to Gadsden partner Urban Innovations for also applying for and receiving a competitive grant—Housing Tax Credits will help complete 140 units of one-bedroom Senior housing at the site.